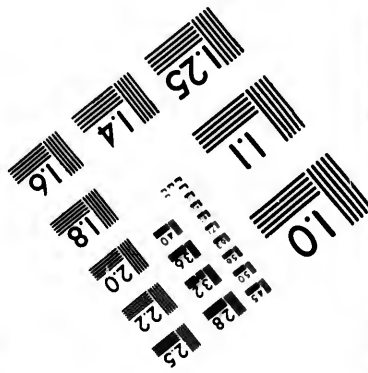
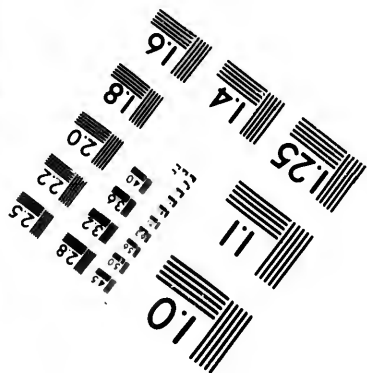
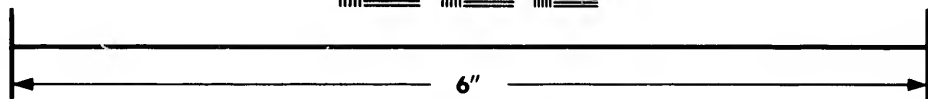
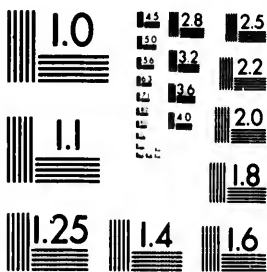


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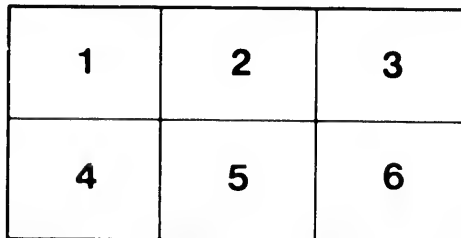
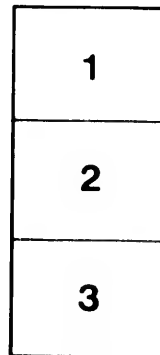
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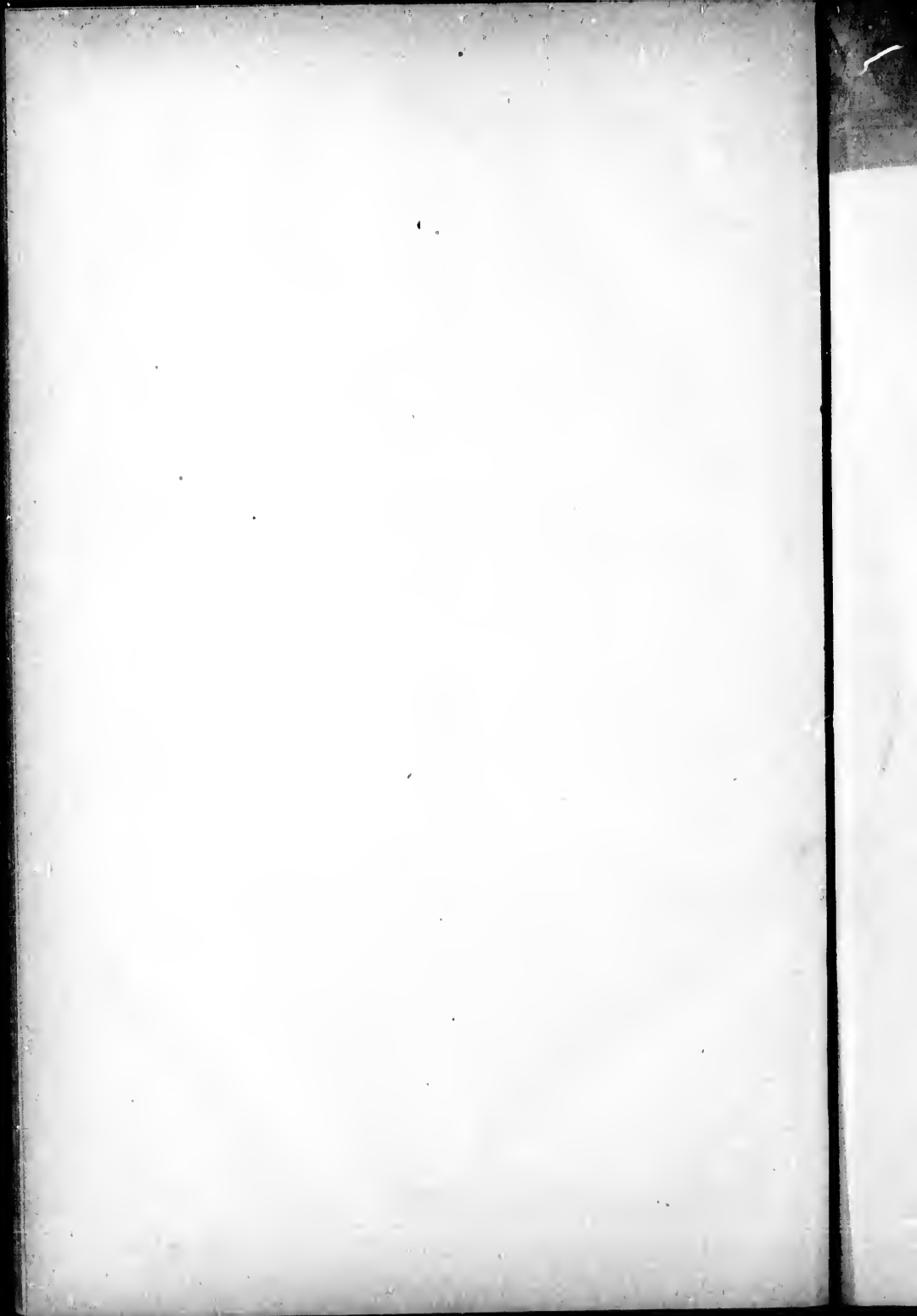
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PART III.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

BOUNDARY

BETWEEN THE

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

AND THE

TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

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1888.

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**Further Correspondence respecting the Boundary between the  
British Possessions in North America and the Territory of  
Alaska.**

**PART III.**

No. 1.

*Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)*

(No. 20.)  
My Lord.

*Washington, January 20, 1888.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of the Report of the Governor of Alaska for 1887.

On p. 10 it is pointed out that the recent discoveries of gold on the tributaries of the Yukon are likely to result in serious complications if the demarcation of the boundary-line between Alaska and the British possessions is further delayed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

**Inclosure in No. 1.**

*Extracts from "Report of the Governor of Alaska for the Fiscal Year 1887."*

Sir,

*Sitka, Alaska, October 1, 1887.*

IN obedience to the requirements of section 2 of the Act creating a civil Government for Alaska, approved the 17th May, 1884, and the further request of the honourable Secretary of the Interior, I herewith submit "A Report of the Affairs and of the Progress and Development of the Territory for the Year ending the 30th June, 1887." In doing so, however, I have found it necessary, in order to lay before the Department a reasonably accurate statement of the commerce and productive industries of the territory, to include the time intervening between the close of the fiscal year and the date of this Report, it being otherwise impossible to present such facts and figures as will be fairly indicative of the progress which is being made in the way of substantial development. In this connection I am compelled to say, even at the risk of being set down as an inveterate fault-finder, that in this the third year of my administration of affairs in this territory, I labour under the same disadvantages complained of in my first Report—the total absence of direct means of communication with any part of the territory committed to my executive charge save that known as the south-eastern section, and which constitutes less than one-twentieth of the whole.

Early in February last I was informed, through the Department, that it was the intention of the honourable Secretary of the Navy to detail Lieutenant W. H. Emory "for service with the United States' steamer 'Thetis' in Alaskan waters," with instructions to "co-operate with the civil Government, and with the Governor, and aid him by furnishing transportation where required;" and I was given to understand that the ship would be here in ample time to enable me to comply with that provision of the organic Act which makes it my duty to "inquire into the operations of the Alaska Seal and Fur



Company" (Alaska Commercial Company?), and also to visit various other sections of the territory over which it has thus far been impossible to extend the authority of the civil Government. The hope thus inspired, I regret to say, has not been realized; and, owing to the non-arrival of the "Thetis," I am still unable to make a Report, based altogether upon personal observation and knowledge, of the "resources, industries, population," &c., of any other part of Alaska than the comparatively small section alluded to, and which is known as the south-eastern division. I have, however, been able to glean considerable information of value concerning the more remote sections of the territory from sources I deem altogether trustworthy and reliable, which I give in connection with such facts and figures relating to the south-eastern section as are within my own personal knowledge.

#### Population.

The white population of Alaska is principally confined to the south-eastern section—that part which embraces the so-called "30-mile strip" of mainland lying in front of the British possessions, and extending from Dixon's Entrance to Mount St. Elias and the islands of the Alexandria Archipelago—a geographical division which covers an area of only 29,000 square miles out of a total of 581,000 claimed for the whole territory. I am very reliably informed, however, that the white population of the western and south-western sections is much larger than has heretofore been represented; but having no means at my disposal with which to defray the cost of securing a reasonably accurate enumeration, even in the most accessible parts of the territory, I can do no more than give what I consider a reliable and altogether conservative estimate of the population, taking the incomplete census of 1880 as the basis of calculation. I think it perfectly safe to estimate the increase in white population at not less than 50 per cent. as compared with the figures given in my last annual Report.

The inauguration of new mining and fishing enterprises on the mainland and islands to the westward, of which mention will hereafter be made, has more than doubled the white population in that direction; and while the same may be said of the Harris (Juneau) mining district, not less than 350 white miners have made their way to and located, at least temporarily, on the headwaters and tributaries of the Yukon River, where some very promising placer mines were found and worked during the past summer.

Since my last Report the Rev. William Duncan, the Episcopal missionary, whose successful work among the Indians of British Columbia had become a matter of world-wide notoriety, in that he not only converted to Christianity the savage people among whom he went to carry the Gospel some twenty or thirty years ago, but actually founded and built up a flourishing village with a population of nearly, if not quite, 1,500 educated Christian natives, with all the trades and industries which usually are carried on in civilized communities, has removed his people, with all their industries, into Alaska, settling them at Port Chester, Annette Island, where he has founded the new town of Metla-Kahtla. These people are all more or less educated, naturally intelligent, well-behaved and industrious, and will make excellent citizens. The immigration of this people adds at least 1,000 persons to the civilized population of the territory, and it is expected their number will be largely augmented by the influx of many other British Columbia natives who are desirous of joining Mr. Duncan in his new home.

From all the information at hand, I estimate the population of Alaska to be about as follows:—

Whites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,000
Creoles (practically white)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,800
Aleuts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,000
Natives (civilized and more or less educated)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,500
Natives (uncivilized)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,500
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39,800

While I am quite sure that I have not over-estimated the white population, I have simply taken the Creole and Aleut membership of the Greco-Russian Church in Alaska, as given me by the archpriest in charge of the diocese, as representing the whole number of those people living in the territory. The uncivilized population, in the absence of an enumeration, can only be guessed at, and I have therefore adopted, in round numbers, the incomplete count made by Petroff in 1880, taking it for granted that there are full as many natives in the territory now as were actually counted six years ago.

#### Stock-raising.

Nothing has yet been done in the way of stock-raising, for which, in my opinion, some parts of the territory are specially well adapted. There are no cattle in south-eastern

Alaska, save a few horses, mules, and pack-animals, with here and there a few milch-cows, all of which, however, seem to thrive well on the abundant pasturage, which continues green and succulent during at least nine months of the year. Indeed, the winters of south-eastern Alaska, of Kadiak, and the Aleutian Islands being very much milder and more equable than those of Montana, Wyoming, and Dakota, it is safe to say that cattle can be permitted to run at large and subsist themselves during the whole year with less loss than in the territories named. In most parts of the territory, even as far north as Kotzebue Sound, there is an abundant and luxurious growth of grasses, principal among which are the Kentucky blue-grass, blue-joint, and wood-meadow grass, which will not only furnish the best pasturage, but from which an abundance of fodder can be cured with which to feed an unlimited number of cattle during the short winter seasons, which are the rule along the south-eastern coast and on the islands. Indeed, there is no reason why cattle may not be kept in numbers sufficient to the wants of any probable population in most parts of the interior, and particularly on the Upper Yukon, where there is promise of large mineral developments in the near future, if properly sheltered during the winter; all accounts agree as to the abundance of grasses for summer pasturage and fodder for winter feeding. The comparatively few cattle in south-eastern Alaska, on Kadiak and the Aleutian Islands, thrive well and fatten quickly, the beef being remarkably tender and well flavoured, while the rare and excellent quality of the milk and cream elicits the praise of all who visit Kadiak and the islands to the westward.

With all its advantages in the way of abundant and luxuriant grasses, of innumerable islands upon which thousands of cattle could be kept without expense for herding or fencing, of a much more favourable climate than that of some of the territories, where millions of dollars have been invested in the business, I do not, however, anticipate any development of this one great source of wealth until, by the establishment of necessary mail-routes, the different sections of the territory are brought into closer relations with each other and with the business centres of the Pacific coast at least. The existing monopoly in the carrying trade, for which the Government is wholly responsible, in that it has farmed out one of the chief industries of the territory to a giant Corporation, which thus far has succeeded in defeating nearly every proposed act of legislation calculated to insure the settlement and development of Alaska, thus placing all that part of the territory not held within its own relentless grasp at the mercy of another greedy and insatiate Corporation, precludes the hope of any very rapid and substantial development of Alaska's many natural resources other than mineral, and even in that the hardy pioneer is obliged to meet and contend with obstacles for the removal of which we can only look to Congress through such legislation as will place Alaska on an equal footing with the other territories. It is idle to expect the investment of any considerable amount of capital in the development of the resources of a territory having a semblance of local government only, and in which would-be settlers and investors are denied the privilege of buying and paying for the lands they wish to occupy and improve. On the other hand, as soon as Congress shall conclude that there are indeed here in Alaska all the natural elements essential to the growth of a rich and prosperous State, and acting upon that theory shall conclude to enact such legislation as will encourage and promote their development, then, and not till then, may we look for the dawn of that era of prosperity which should have followed close after the transfer of the territory from the Russian to the American Government, which will populate Alaska with a hardy, industrious, enterprising people, dot her main and island coasts with thriving villages, towns, and cities, the outcome of which will be the development of natural resources that will make of her in substantial and enduring wealth what she now is in the extent of her broad domain—a mighty Empire within herself.

In my last Report I referred very briefly to the reported discovery of rich placer diggings on the Stewart River and headwaters of the Yukon. These discoveries being in the British north-west territory, I did not consider it any part of my duty to inquire particularly into the facts concerning them, notwithstanding the knowledge that the only practical route to that section was through Alaskan territory. A year, however, has put a different aspect on mining affairs in that quarter. Between 300 and 400 miners made their way across the "divide" to the Upper Yukon last spring, some of whom have returned with the report of rich placers on the Shitanda River, or, as the miners themselves have named it, "Forty-Mile Creek."

Most of the returned miners with whom I have conversed brought with them substantial evidence of the truth of their statements as to the existence of gold in paying quantities in the bars and gravel deposits of the river named; but a few who were unfortunate in finding the precious metal naturally do not speak in the highest terms of the

country which the others denominate a new El Dorado. It is noticeable, however, that the enthusiasts are, without exception, old and experienced miners, while those who decry their statements are just as generally men who never had much experience in placer mining, and perhaps still less in "roughing it" in a country wholly new and unsettled.

The weight of testimony is largely in favour of the belief that there is an abundance of gold in that section. Indeed, the more experienced and intelligent miners who have been there and returned, and with most of whom I have conversed, express the opinion that there is an endless amount of gold along the Yukon and on its tributaries, and more especially on the Shitando River, from the gravel bars of which it is estimated at least 100,000 dollars was taken out last summer. This river is one of considerable size, and has been prospected for a distance of 100 miles from its mouth, the first gold being found a few miles above its confluence with the Yukon. The first discovery on this stream was made by a miner named Franklin late last fall, and the fact that coarse gold had been found on the Shitando being reported to the miners who were wintering on Stewart River, as well as to the hundreds who subsequently crossed the divide, the scene of active operations was at once transferred from the latter to the former stream—from British to American territory. It is to be presumed, in fact it is so stated by the miners, that more time was spent during the summer in prospecting for gold than in actually washing it out.

The miners would not work a bar that paid less than 10 dollars per day to the man, and whenever one of them found his ground was not yielding him that amount he would leave it and prospect for something richer. The rocker was the only method of washing employed, and operations were wholly confined to ground close to running water, for the reason that the gravel farther back was invariably found covered with moss and frozen solid down to bed-rock. It is believed, however, that this moss, which becomes very dry in summer, can be burned off, and that the gravel, when exposed to a scorching Arctic sun, will readily thaw out. Should this be the case, it is the opinion of the miners with whom I have conversed that a vast amount of gold can be taken out every season for a number of years to come, and that very much of the ground that has been passed by as not rich enough to pay, using the rocker only, can be made to yield hundreds of thousands of dollars by sluicing. Altogether, I cannot resist the belief that the auriferous gravel beds of the Yukon and its tributaries are of vast extent, and capable of affording profitable employment to thousands of hardy miners for many years to come.

The gravel deposits are by no means confined to the Shitando River. I hear of discoveries all along the Yukon, between the Shitando and Tananah, and on the latter stream, where men have rocked out from 10 dollars to 20 dollars per day. One party found good pay ground on Arctic Circle Island, about midway between the deltas of the two rivers last named, and which are not less than 750 miles distant from each other. There are hundreds of streams between these two points heading in the mountains and falling into the Yukon, which have never been prospected; and it is the belief of many that the recent discoveries are only indicative of the existence in the mountains and valleys of the great river of the most extensive and prolific gold-fields the world has ever known.

Where does the gold found in the gravel beds and bars of the Shitando and other tributaries of the Yukon come from? Manifestly it can come from no other source than rich quartz veins in the mountains where it was originally embedded, and from whence it has been worn out by the action of the weather, water, and ice, and by such agents carried down and deposited where it is now found. Perhaps the most efficient agents have been the glaciers, which are simply great rivers of ice, moving slowly but surely and irresistibly, grinding up the rocks and carrying the sands, gravel, and boulders down into the gulches and streams, finally depositing them wherever the ice melts. Certainly, upon no other theory can we account for the auriferous sand dunes of the north Pacific coast in the region of the great glaciers.

These glaciers flow from the mountains of the interior to the sea, reaching which great masses break off, and melting in the warm waters of the ocean current drop their freight of golden sands which by the action of the waves are again washed back upon the shore. All the conditions essential to such a theory exist in the Yukon country, the glaciers are there, and it requires no great stretch of the imagination to see immense blocks of ice swept down by the mountain torrents, melting beneath the rays of the noontide and midnight sun in the gulches and valleys where they have found a lodgment, for the accounts all agree that while the winters in the Yukon region are extremely cold and rigorous, the summer's heat is well nigh intolerable.

There being no doubt as to the source of the auriferous sand and gravel deposits

found in her streams, valleys, and gulches—and I have yet to hear of a stream being prospected which did not yield at least the colour of gold—with developments on the Shitanda and elsewhere which give abundant assurances of the existence of almost unlimited gravel beds containing the precious metals in paying quantities, who shall attempt even a guess at the measure of Alaska's golden harvest when the great fountain head of it all shall have been found and utilized, as sooner or later it will be.

I hear of coal being discovered at various points in the territory, but as yet no substantial progress has been made in the way of developing any of the seams, if we except the one opened by the Russians at Cook's Inlet some years before the transfer, and from which enough coal of good quality was mined to supply the Russian-American Company's steam-ships with fuel. I have heretofore mentioned the opening of a vein of coal at Cape Lisburne, in the Arctic. I am informed, how truthfully I cannot say, that whalers in the Arctic not infrequently mine coal from this seam for their own use, and report it well adapted for steam purposes.

A vessel master who has sailed for years in Alaskan waters has offered to show me a 7-foot vein of coal, which he says is superior to that of Vancouver Island, whenever I am ready to furnish the necessary transportation and accompany him. He says the coal is immediately on the shore of a safe and commodious harbour, and knowing him to be a reliable man, I am inclined to place considerable confidence in his statements. There is certainly an abundance of coal in the territory, but its quality is a mooted question which can only be determined by the expenditure of a sufficient amount of capital to open up one or more of the veins, and thus secure a practical test of other than that part of the seam which has long been exposed to the action of the elements, and never subjected to any considerable pressure. Miners down from the Yukon tell me of a seam of bituminous coal, 20 feet thick, on a small stream which empties into that river about 10 miles below the mouth of the Shitanda, and which they say burns well, leaving an apparently small percentage of ash. They say that for a distance of 2 miles the bed of this stream is in solid coal. Some effort is being made to open a mine near Killisnoo, but the seam is small, and unless something better is found, by sinking or drifting, the enterprise must necessarily be abandoned. On the whole, I have little doubt but the coal measures of Alaska will, in time, assume a position of considerable importance in connection with the fuel supply of the Pacific coast.

#### \* \* \* \* \*

#### *Fish and Fisheries.*

In my last annual Report I estimated, on the strength of information then at hand, the value of the salmon, cod, and halibut catch of the territory in 1886 (including oil), at 725,000 dollars, making no mention whatever of the whale fisheries. Soon after that Report was forwarded I learned from authentic sources that the value of the salmon actually shipped in that year from the canneries at Karluk (Kadiak Island), on Cook's Inlet and Bristol Bay alone, was considerably in excess of the amount at which I had estimated the whole catch of the territory. Since then several large new salmon canning and salting establishments have been started in various parts of the territory, so that there have been in operation the past season—some of them very large with packing-houses in connection—nine canneries and seven salting-houses independent of the canneries. From the information at hand, mostly reliable, I estimate the output of canned salmon the present year at not less than 240,000 cases of four dozen one-pound tins each, or 11,520,000 pounds, and the salted salmon at 14,000 barrels, the total market value of which will amount, in round figures, to 1,800,000 dollars. To this must be added the product of the whale fisheries, which last year amounted to 600,000 gallons of oil, worth 150,000 dollars, and 250,000 pounds of bone, valued at 750,000 dollars. My information is to the effect that about thirty whaling vessels have been in the Arctic this year, and that the catch will equal if it does not exceed that of last season. The annual catch of cod amounts, as nearly as I can ascertain, to about 5,000,000 pounds, of the value of something over 200,000 dollars.

Adding to this the value of the halibut caught and sent away, and of the refined oil made from herring at Killisnoo, say 100,000 dollars, and we have 3,000,000 dollars as representing the market value of Alaska fisheries the present year.

The salmon-canning and packing establishments are located as follows:—Klanak Tongass Narrows, Loring, Burroughs Bay, Yes Bay, Wrangell, Red Fish Bay, Chilcat, Killisnoo, Sitka, Cook's Inlet, Bristol Bay, and Karluk; the principal cod-fishing stations are at Pirate Cove, Unga Island, and Sandy Point, Popoff Island. There are nine canneries, two of which put up clams, which are very plentiful all along the south-eastern coast. The salmon streams and cod banks are but just beginning to attract practical attention, comparatively few of the former having, as yet, been utilized, while it is my belief that the

latter, given advantage of low freights to the East, would soon exceed in value and importance the famous banks of Newfoundland.

Some idea of the importance the cod and salmon fisheries of Alaska are likely to attain in the not very far distant future may be gathered from the truthful statement that the whole coast, from Dixon's Entrance on the south to and beyond Behring's Straits on the north, including the islands with a sea-frontage of 25,000 miles, is one great reservoir of fish. They are, seemingly, to be found anywhere and everywhere in Alaskan waters. The creeks and rivers literally swarm with salmon during the spawning season. They are the commonest kind of diet with the natives, who depend largely upon dried salmon for their winter supply of food, and they can always be had for the taking.

I have seen over a thousand salmon, of the average weight of 10 pounds each, taken at a single haul of the seine right here in Sitka Bay, the waters of which, and the streams putting into it, have been fished every year for centuries.

The mail-steamers last summer, during the spawning season, stopped regularly at Tongass Narrow, for no other purpose than to permit tourists to see the myriads of salmon making their way up an adjacent stream and leaping the falls, a spectacle truly wonderful to those not conversant with the fact, that there are hundreds of other streams in Alaska compared to which the one in question sinks into utter insignificance in respect to the number and size of the fish that throng their waters. From the smallest stream to the mighty Yukon, in every bay and inlet, the salmon is found, improving in size and excellence of flavour the further north you go. In south-eastern Alaska they do not average in size more than 10 lbs.; at Bristol Bay and Cook's Inlet the average is nearer 40, and, I have heard it stated, as high as 60. An officer of one of the revenue steamers assures me that he has seen salmon taken at Cook's Inlet, two of which filled a barrel with the salted article, and I have the best of authority for asserting that they are found of still larger size in the Yukon. All accounts agree in the statement that the numbers of these fish that ascend the Yukon every spring and summer are simply fabulous. Dall, who spent two or three consecutive years on the lower Yukon, says that not less than 2,000,000 salmon, and probably double that number, are caught and dried every summer at its mouth by the natives, and that he has seen "the weak and injured fish, which die often spawning, piled three or four deep in winnows, on the banks of the Unalaklik River," which empties into Norton Sound, some distance above St. Michael's.

There are no salmon-canning and packing establishments beyond Bristol Bay, though there are many streams between that and the Polar Sea, and some emptying into the bays and sounds of the latter which might be utilized, while comparatively few of the available stations on the south-eastern coast have as yet been occupied. Taking the output of the few canneries and packing-houses already established as an indication, I am not prepared to dispute the proposition I have often heard advanced, that Alaska is capable of supplying the world with salmon. It is doubtful, however, if the proposition will hold true, unless measures are taken, if, indeed, it be possible, to prevent the wholesale slaughter of these fish which is now going on. Of course, it is understood that there are several varieties of the salmon, some of which are unsavoury and unfit for food; then, again, there are different kinds that are palatable, the only perceptible difference being in the colour of the flesh. The opinion seems to have obtained among consumers that none but the red salmon are fit for table use, and this prejudice has grown so strong and widespread that it is difficult to sell any other at a price that will afford the smallest margin of profit.

At one of the salmon-fisheries visited during the season I found them throwing away thousands of fish, between which and those that were saved I could distinguish no difference whatever, but on inquiry was told that they were "off colour." Asking a further explanation, I was informed that there was no difference whatever in the flavour of the fish; that those thrown away were just as good and edible as those that were being salted, but that consumers would have to be educated up to that fact before it would be possible to find a market for them at almost any price, however small. I should judge that at the fishery referred to, at least three salmon were being killed to every one cured, and I am told that is the rule, rather than the exception, at all the fishing-stations in Alaska. There is no law to prevent this wasteful slaughter, nor do I pretend to say that it will be possible to regulate the prejudices of the vast army of salmon-eaters by legal enactment; nevertheless, I have deemed it my duty to call the attention of the Department to it, in the hope that some means may be devised to prevent the killing of three excellent food-fishes in order to supply an altogether too fastidious public taste with only one.

When the United States' Government purchased Alaska for 7,200,000 dollars, it did not, in my opinion, pay more than a fraction of what the territory would actually be worth were every other natural resource or element of wealth than its cod-banks wiped completely out of existence. I make this assertion with the full knowledge that it

is more than likely to subject me to the ridicule of those who cannot understand why this, together with the other great natural resources of the territory, after the lapse of twenty years, is still in the infancy of its development. Ever since the transfer, a studied and determined effort has been made to imbue the general public, as well as the Government, with the belief that there is nothing of value in Alaska save its fur-bearing animals. Agents of the Government, sent out to examine and report upon its resources, instead of honestly performing the service for which they were paid, have, in the interest of a Corporation into whose service they drifted from that of the Government, spread broadcast statements concerning the climate and undeveloped resources of Alaska which they knew were utterly false, but which, according with a pre-conceived public opinion born of ignorance, were generally accepted as true. It has taken long years of patient and persistent endeavour on the part of the true friends of Alaska to even partially dispel the erroneous idea thus imposed upon the public mind, but despite the efforts of her detractors to prevent it, she is gradually but surely emerging from the long night of misrepresentation into the dawn of a permanent and glorious prosperity.

One of these paid libellers of Alaska, who has lately issued an elaborate and graphically illustrated work of nearly 500 pages, in which he "damns with faint praise" everything in Alaska he does not utterly condemn, save and except, always, the one monopolized industry he is paid to screen, in so far as he may be able, against the searching light of truthful inquiry, not long ago semi-officially announced that he had "learned enough of the country and climate to know that the fishing waters now occupied by the natives of Alaska will never be objects for the cupidity of our people." And in an official Report to the Secretary of the Treasury, the same individual, while admitting the existence of immense cod banks in the waters of Alaska, asserted that the "quality of the Alaskan cod is much inferior to our eastern fisheries," and that "the quantity and quality are insufficient, in a business point of view, provided even the demand was always equal to the supply." With such statements, bearing the impress of official sanction, spread broadcast through the country, it is not a matter of much wonder that the fishing interests of Alaska are but just beginning to be appreciated as of large commercial importance, that the belief still obtains in many quarters that her cod banks "are not valuable enough to induce capitalists to engage in taking and curing the fish for exportation."

Against the assertions of this paid emissary of the incorporated enemy of Alaska and her best interests, I will simply refer to Professors Jordan and Bean, of the United States' Fish Commission, who, after careful investigation, have not been able to detect any perceptible difference between the Alaskan cod and those of the North Atlantic. The immense extent of the banks is conceded, even by those who decry the quality of the fish.

They are found around the whole south-eastern shore and in the innumerable waterways of the Alexander archipelago. The entire shore, for a distance of 600 miles north-west from Sitka, is an almost continuous cod bank. They abound in Cook's Inlet, Bristol Bay, and all along the Aleutian chain, the famous Shumagin banks being of sufficient extent to afford employment to thousands of fishermen. The whole eastern part of the Behring's Sea is a submarine plateau, where soundings of not over 50 fathoms are found over an area of nearly 20,000 square miles. Indeed, as I have said, the whole coast of Alaska, extending from Portland Canal to the south to Behring's Straits on the north, including the waters adjacent to the Aleutian Islands, is one grand and inexhaustible reservoir of food fishes, principal among which is the cod.

Such being the fact as to quantity, if any better evidence than that of Professors Jordan and Bean is wanted as to quality, it can be found in the growing demand for Alaskan cod, which is every year calling for the employment of more vessels and a larger number of men in the business of taking and curing them. Nor is it true, as I have seen it stated in the public prints, that there is no deep-sea fishing in Alaskan waters. The smaller cod are found in the shallower part of the banks, but the best fisheries are farther out and in water from 70 to 90 fathoms deep, where fish weighing from 25 lbs. to 40 lbs. are the rule rather than the exception. It is true, however, that most of the fishing at present is carried on in shallow waters, for the reason that it is less expensive and not nearly so laborious, the schooners engaged in the business being employed entirely as carriers of the catch, which is made by dories, boats, and canoes that are too small and frail to venture far from shore. It is only a question of time when the deep-sea fisheries will be utilized by those who prefer the larger fish, though, I am assured, they are only preferable because of the difference in size.

There is another point in connection with the cod banks of Alaska which should not be overlooked. The facilities for carrying on the business are far superior to those of the North Atlantic coast. The banks are all within easy reach of safe and commodious harbours, while they are not more distant from San Francisco or Puget Sound ports than

are those of the North Atlantic from Boston and Portland. In view of all these facts, I think I am fully warranted in the conclusion that all that is wanted is a market and a demand for fish to whiten the vast cod banks of Alaska with the sails of fishing craft of every description. The time is coming when the fishermen of the East will turn their attention to the safer and more prolific waters of the North Pacific, and when, with low freights to the East, the cod-fisheries of Alaska will bid successfully for a market as far east, at least, as St. Paul and Chicago.

Another excellent food fish found in great abundance in Alaskan waters is the halibut. They are found and can be taken in great numbers all along the southern coast, the sizes ranging from the "chicken" halibut to those weighing 300 lbs. to 400 lbs. They are of fine flavour and excellent quality, and I can see no good reason why they may not ere long take a prominent place in the list of exports from the territory. They now form a very important and desirable part of the domestic food supply. Some are cured each year at Killisnoo, as also a few tons of cod, but only as a sort of side issue, the business of the Company there being the extraction of oil from herring. One fisherman here at Sitka salted about 125,000 lbs. the past season for a San Francisco firm, and I happen to know he could have secured 1,000,000 lbs. could he have been assured of a market. His catch was all made by the natives, and could not have cost him to exceed 1 cent a lb. delivered at the packing-house. As with the cod, nothing is wanting but a market to make the Alaskan halibut the basis of a large and more or less lucrative business.

The herring, which Dall says resembles those of the North Sea of Europe, are not less plentiful than the cod and salmon. They are found all along the southern coast, arriving sometimes as early as the middle of April, and remaining several weeks. They come in incalculable numbers, and here at Sitka through the waters to such an extent that the natives not only take all they want by the simple means of an oval-shaped stick with 3 or 4 sharpened nails in one end, but likewise secures tons upon tons of the roe without killing the fish. Herring roe is to the native Sitkans what the shad roe is to the dwellers on the Susquehanna and the Potomac—it is a very important part of their winter diet, as well as a luxury, and their mode of securing it is very simple. Lashing a lot of hemlock boughs to lines of suitable length, one end of a line is made fast to the prow of a canoe, and the other to the stern, and given sufficient slack to bring the boughs 2 or 3 feet under water. Thus equipped, the native paddles out to the herring grounds, which are here co-extensive with the whole of Sitka Bay, drops his line of boughs over the side of his canoe, and, whiling away an hour or two, possibly dreaming what the harvest will be, pulls them up coated an inch thick with the coveted spawn. Taking the boughs ashore they are hung up or spread out in the sun for the roe to dry, after which it is stripped off by the women and put away in oil for future use. I only refer to this native mode of securing the roe as being indicative of the abundance of herring in these waters. They are considered by many an excellent pan fish, but to my mind they are too fat, and are not likely to be ever largely utilized save for the oil.

At Killisnoo, about midway between Sitka and Juneau, is the fishery and oil works of the North-west Trading Company. What is called the lagoon at this place—a lake into which the sea flows at high tide—is a favourite resort for the herring. They usually put in an appearance from the 1st to the 15th August, and the fishing lasts till late in December. The Company employs two tugs and several scows in the business, and all the fishing is done by steam. An immense "purse-net" is drawn by the tugs until it is completely closed at the bottom and on the sides, leaving an opening at the top through which the fish are lifted out by means of a dip-net operated by a steam-crane. As many as a thousand barrels are not infrequently taken at one haul of the net, the catch during the season of 1886 amounting to over 100,000 barrels, which yielded about 400,000 gallons of oil. This oil is pressed at a temperature of 12°, is perfectly pure, and I am not sure that some of it is not now making its way in the public favour as a very superior article of the extract of olive. As I have already stated, this Company does something also in the curing of cod and halibut, and also salts the few salmon that are incidentally thrown in the way of its regular business. It has built up a considerable village, and gives steady employment to a large number of natives. It has an extensive plant, and has invested a large amount of money in improvements upon land to which it has no title. But in this regard it has no more to complain of than the many others who are building homes and setting up business enterprises on lands they are denied the privilege of buying and owning.

While I am not prepared from my own personal knowledge to corroborate the statement credited to Professor Bean, of the Smithsonian Institute, that there are seventy-five species of food fishes to be found in Alaskan water, I know that there are many others than those I have named as of chief commercial importance. Among them may be named

a yellow fish closely resembling the Spanish mackerel, which is found in great abundance around the Aleutian Islands, and which I believe would find a ready sale when cured. The whitefish abounds in the rivers and inland lakes, and in time will, without doubt, constitute an item of considerable importance in the political economy of the territory. The salmon-trout is also very plentiful in many of the lakes and streams, while some of the inland waters are full of pike, grayling, and blackfish. Indeed, I am inclined to believe that when the whole truth is known it will be found that Professor Bean has not enumerated half the species of food fishes existing in Alaskan waters, none of which have ever had more than a partial examination, while the piscatory resources of many of the rivers and inland lakes are as yet practically unknown.

#### Commerce.

The commerce of Alaska is at present such only as grows out of and is intimately connected with its fisheries, fur trade, and mining interests. Its extent may be inferred from the following carefully estimated statement of the market value of the products of her several industries the present year:—

	Dollars.
Fur trade .. .. .	2,500,000
Gold (bullion and dust) .. .. .	1,350,000
Fisheries .. .. .	3,000,000
Lumber and ivory .. .. .	100,000
Total .. .. .	6,950,000

The indications are that the output of gold will be trebled, if not quadrupled, the coming year, while there is every prospect that a large amount of capital will be added to that already employed in the fisheries. The fur trade is at its maximum, and aside from the fur-seal industry may be expected to diminish in volume just in proportion to the development of the other natural resources of the territory.

#### Undeveloped Resources.

Practically, the natural resources of Alaska are in the infancy of their development; in fact, all her elements of wealth, aside from the fur trade, can more properly be written of under this caption than any other. At least nine-tenths of her gold bullion this year came from her one developed mine of mineral-bearing quartz, which is now being supplied with mill facilities that will enable it to more than double its annual product of precious metal. The mineral-bearing belt or ledge in which this mine is located gives certain promise of the speedy development of a number of others equally as large and productive, while from all parts of the territory come reports of valuable discoveries, both of gold and of silver. The prospective wealth of Alaska's almost interminable forests of spruce-pine, cedar, hemlock, &c., can scarcely be over-estimated; in time there will come an agricultural and horticultural development that will put to shame the oft-repeated assertion of her detractors, that "no crops can be grown in Alaska;" her grazing lands will be utilized to the extent at least of supplying a home market, no matter what proportions it may assume, with the choicest beef; her fisheries are practically inexhaustible, while in her shaggy-breasted mountains will be found nearly every variety of mineral adapted to the wants of commerce or the uses of mankind. With at least the colour of gold in the bars of her every creek and river, and in the sands on the shores of her extensive coast-line, washed down from the "mother lodes" located in her towering mountain ranges, with her coast and inland waters, from the southern boundary of the Polar Sea, swarming with numerous species of the best food fishes, her illimitable forests of valuable timber, her great seams of coal, mountains of iron, and wide area of grazing lands, who shall undertake to definitely estimate or limit the value of Alaska's undeveloped resources?

#### Condition of the Natives.

In south-eastern Alaska the natives are largely employed by the white people in various kinds of work, and generally receive fair wages. They are not only a provident and self-sustaining people, but to a large extent ambitious of bettering their condition by adopting civilized ways of living, and providing for the education of their children. As fast as they can accumulate the means they tear down their old houses and build new ones of more modern style. One of these, recently completed by a native at Wrangell, is the finest and most pretentious private residence I have seen anywhere in the territory. But for the chronic diseases prevalent among them, and for the eradication of which, in my



opinion, some effective steps should be taken by the Government, they would be generally a happy, contented, and progressive people, not more than one or two generations distant from intelligent and useful citizenship.

#### *International Boundary.*

Serious complications are likely to grow out of a further delay by Congress to provide for a joint survey and definite location of the boundary-line between Alaska and the British possessions. The line described in the Treaty of Cession is the same as that fixed by Convention between Russia and Great Britain in 1825, and is altogether vague, indefinite, and liable to misconstruction.

The recent discoveries of rich placers of gold on the Shitando River, and other tributaries of the Yukon, are likely to attract thousands of miners to that region in the near future. All the charts and maps I have seen locate the whole of the Shitando River in Alaska, but I am reliably informed that a Mr. Ogilvie, sent out last spring by the Dominion Government to make a preliminary survey of the boundary-line, claims that it is in British territory, and has broadly hinted that on the strength of his Report to that effect his Government will attempt the collection of the miner's licence provided for by the Dominion Law. Any attempted exercise of dominion authority in that particular section will be resisted by the miners now here, most of whom are American citizens, not at all disposed to tolerate the least interference until the boundary-line is definitely determined by the joint action of the two Governments.

Though this new and very promising gold-field can, and ultimately will, be reached by steamer from the mouth of the Yukon, the present travelled route is principally through British territory. The miners going there leave tide water at the head of Dyab Inlet and make their way over the mountains to a chain of lakes, which, together with the connecting rivers, they traverse in boats to the Yukon. The Dominion Government has granted a concession for a toll-road or pack-trail over that part of the route within its territory, and application will be made to Congress for a Charter for a similar trail on the American side. As no subsidy of any kind will be asked for, only the right to collect fixed rates of toll being desired, I venture to ask for the application prompt and favourable consideration. It seems to me Congress ought not to hesitate in according prompt action, in view of the fact that the Charter, if granted, will devolve no expense upon the Government, while, on the other hand, the projected improvement is one calculated to greatly facilitate the development of the mineral resources of the territory.

Unless much better facilities are provided, with the better means of transportation which will naturally follow, a steamer for the use of the officials will be indispensable to the administration of the civil Government and the enforcement of law and order in many portions of the territory now wholly inaccessible. Indeed, in all save south-eastern Alaska the civil Government provided for by the Act of the 17th May, 1884, is the veriest myth, and must necessarily remain so until mail communication is established, or those charged with the duty of administering it are furnished with some kind of safe and reliable transportation. In all the more remote sections of the territory, the law prohibiting the importation and sale of intoxicating liquors and breech-loading fire-arms is openly violated; crimes, including murder, are committed with impunity, and there is no punishment for the offenders, for the simple reason that the officials are not provided with the means necessary to put the law in force. Either the civil authorities should be furnished with transportation, or else be held blameless for the non-enforcement of law and order in localities they are unable to reach for the want of it.

The disadvantages under which the authorities of the civil Government labour for want of proper facilities with which to discharge their duties are none the less conspicuous in the Customs service of the territory. By Act of Congress the entire territory of Alaska is constituted a collection district for Customs purposes, with the port of entry at Sitka. By authority of the Treasury Department, sub-ports have been established at Tongass, Wrangell, and Juneau, in south-eastern Alaska, and at Kodiak, on the island of that name, and at Ounalaska, in the Aleutian chain. Throwing out of the computation the Arctic coast from Behring's Strait to Point Barrow as beyond the confines of commerce, the coast-line, direct from Tongass to Behring's Strait by way of Kodiak and Ounalaska, exceeds 3,000 miles, and following the navigable estuaries and indentations is not far short of 10,000 miles in length. In addition to the duties imposed by the revenue and navigation laws the Collector of Customs and his subordinate officers are charged with the duty of enforcing the laws against the taking of fur-seal and other fur-

bearing animals, and also the laws concerning the importation and landing of intoxicating liquors and breech-loading arms and ammunition within the district. Yet the Collector is not provided with any means whatever of water patrol or transportation, and there is not even a row-boat under his control. With a district bounded on one side by a foreign country, with such an enormous coast-line, its waters open to the navigation of the world, and no facilities whatever for patrolling its coast, it need occasion no surprise that the Government is frequently defrauded of its revenue, and that the laws are violated with impunity.

One who has never visited this coast can form but a meagre conception of the number of hiding-places the innumerable bays, coves, and channels afford, especially to small craft engaged in illicit traffic. Fort Simpson, British Columbia, affords a convenient base from which to operate, and the difference between the cost of British and American whiskies, arising from the internal-revenue tax, alone makes the business of smuggling one of great profit. The port of Tongass is adjacent to British Columbia, but is some 25 miles off the usual line of navigation; but were this otherwise the Customs officer at that place is powerless because of a want of transportation. Craft, therefore, laden with British goods and British liquors, pass into Alaskan waters without challenge or hindrance, and in some secluded cove turn their cargoes over to the Indian trader and return to Fort Simpson to repeat the experiment.

British vessels are also now regularly plying between Victoria, British Columbia, and Alaskan ports, more especially Juneau, and enter Alaskan waters without surveillance or examination until they reach their port of destination. The evils incident to the illicit traffic are growing in magnitude as the Settlements of the territory increase, but the Customs officers are powerless to prevent or remedy them. Without a water patrol a small army could not successfully protect this coast against the introduction of goods and liquors of foreign product.

The necessities of the Customs service absolutely demand that a good revenue-cutter like the "Rush" be assigned to this district, with head-quarters at Sitka, and the Government owes it to its own self-respect that better facilities be furnished the officials of the district with which to enforce the laws. That a good vessel can successfully cover south-eastern Alaska, and also attend to the sealing interests of the Government in Behring's Sea, has been demonstrated by the active movements of the cutter named during the past summer. In case such a vessel cannot be provided good steam-launches capable of making 10 to 12 knots per hour, and properly manned, should be stationed, one each at the ports of Tongass, Wrangell, Juneau, and Sitka, under the control of the Collector of the district. Until some such water-patrol is established Alaska will continue to be the objective-point for outlawry, and the smuggler will ply his vocation with little, if any, molestation.

## No. 2.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

*Foreign Office, February 2, 1888.*

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 20, dated January 20, 1888: *ante*, No. 1.]

## No. 3.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. J. Chamberlain, M.P.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 4, 1888.*

IN compliance with the request contained in your telegram received to-day, I transmit to you a copy made from the original French text of the Convention between this country and Russia of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, as well as of the Russian ratification. I also inclose a copy of the certificate of exchange of the ratifications.\*

These have been carefully compared with the original, and are in exact accordance with their text and punctuation, and are certified as being correct.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

\* Not printed.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 22.)*

Sir,

*Downing Street, August 21, 1888.*

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a letter from the High Commissioner for Canada, covering a communication from Sir J. A. Macdonald respecting a proposal to obtain from the United States' Government a concession of certain privileges on that part of Alaska which is claimed by this country.

Lord Knutsford desires me to suggest, for the consideration of Lord Salisbury, that the United States' Government might be informed that this report has reached Her Majesty's Government, and that it is presumed to be unfounded, as the territory in question is part of Her Majesty's dominions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

*Sir C. Tupper to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*9, Victoria Chambers, Westminster, August 1, 1888.*

I HAVE the honour to ask that you will be so good as to move Lord Knutsford to bring under the notice of the Marquis of Salisbury the inclosed correspondence which I have received from Sir John A. Macdonald.

I add a Memorandum upon the same subject prepared by Major-General D. R. Cameron, R.A., C.M.G., who is familiar with, and has previously reported upon, the question of the British-Alaskan boundary.

I entirely concur in the great importance of protesting against the United States' contention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

*Sir J. Macdonald to Sir C. Tupper.*

My dear Sir Charles,

*Dalhousie, July 18, 1888.*

I SEND you a note from Burgess, which speaks for itself. As Sir Lionel says that the Foreign Office disapproves of communications from Ottawa to Washington direct, perhaps you may think it well to call Lord Salisbury's attention to Burgess' suggestion.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

*Mr. Burgess to Sir J. Macdonald.*

*Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada,*

*June 19, 1888.*

Dear Sir John,

CAPTAIN MOORE, of Victoria, British Columbia, who was for some time a member of Ogilvie's expedition to the Yukon, has reported to the Government of British Columbia that he believes certain persons are about to receive a Charter from the Alaskan authorities to construct a trail from Lynn Canal by way of White Pass to the interior of Alaska. If our view of the case is correct, the entire route of this trail, as well as the trail by the Chilkoot Pass, is in Canadian territory. In view of the well-based contention on our part, that the heads of the larger inlets which penetrate that portion of Alaska which consists of the coast-line from Mount St. Elias to Portland Channel, and more particularly the head of Lynn Canal, are within our territory, it would appear to be important to protest against the granting of any rights by the United States or Alaskan Governments at the heads of these inlets.

Would it not be well to communicate confidentially with the British Minister at Washington, asking him to inform the Government of Canada in case he finds that either the United States or Alaskan authorities are granting or proposing to grant privileges of the kind mentioned?

You might, perhaps, think it proper to refer this matter to the Minister of Justice, who is well acquainted with the whole case.

Yours, &c.  
(Signed) A. M. BURGESS.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 4.

*Memorandum.*

BY way of Lynn Canal, of which the entrance is about 135° west longitude, 58° 20' north latitude, is at present the only practical route to gold mines being worked on tributaries of the Pelly River, some in British and some in United States' territory.

The northern extremity of Lynn Canal forks—the western and eastern branches being formed respectively by the inflow of the Chilkat and Chilkoot rivers.

The route hitherto followed by miners entering the country has been by the valley of the Chilkoot—across the height of lands called Perrier or Payer portage.

The ascent to the portage is extremely tedious, but once overcome, there is gained navigable water connected with the Pelly River and the Yukon River. Lieutenant Schwatka noted Perrier portage as the point at which the boundary between United States and British territory passed, the United States' territory lying seaward, the British territory inland. Lieutenant Schwatka had been employed to make a reconnaissance in Alaska, but finding that country most accessible through Lynn Canal continued his exploration down the Pelly River in British territory, until it passed the meridian of 141° west longitude into United States' territory. Lieutenant Schwatka's Report was published as a Congressional paper.

It is not known that there has been any other official claim to Perrier Pass as the point at which the international boundary runs.

From the ocean entrance to Lynn Canal, the head of boat navigation up the Chilkoot is about 80 miles; from this point to Perrier Pass is somewhat in excess of 30 miles, or 10 marine leagues.

Lynn Canal has water-ways of less than 6 miles in breadth at no great distance from its entrance.

It is contended on the Canadian side that the 10 marine leagues given as the maximum breadth of United States' coast territory in the second subsection of Article IV, Russo-British Convention of 1825, may not be measured from any point within an inlet not exceeding 6 miles in breadth, and that, consequently, it is not, under any circumstances, possible that the international boundary can be anywhere so far inland as Perrier Pass.

To avoid the inconvenience of the ascent to the Perrier portage, a diverging route called White Pass, a little to the eastward of Perrier Pass route, has recently been explored.

Speculators interested in the gold mines in the interior and in transit of miners and their goods have for some time had their attention turned to the desirability of opening up the White Pass route.

The greater part if not all of this divergent line is, it is contended, within British territory; and as affecting the principles which are ultimately to determine the whole of the British Alaskan boundary, as well as seriously affecting a British route which may hereafter, with advantage of the greatest importance, be opened through the Taku River Valley, it is submitted that the United States' contention should be emphatically protested against.

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No. 5.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.*

(No. 20.)

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 20 of the 20th January last, I transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter addressed to the Colonial Office by Sir Charles Tupper,

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the High Commissioner for Canada,\* inclosing a correspondence he had received from the Canadian Premier relative to a rumour that a Charter is about to be granted by the Alaskan authorities of the United States for certain privileges in that part of Alaska which is claimed by this country.

I have to request that you will inform Mr. Bayard that this report has reached Her Majesty's Government, and that it is presumed to be unfounded, as the territory in question is part of Her Majesty's dominions.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 6.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 31, 1888.*

IN reply to your letter of the 21st instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Lord Knntsford, a copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,† instructing him to call the attention of the United States' Government to the rumour which has reached the Dominion Government, of an intended grant of a Charter by the Alaskan authorities of the United States for certain privileges in that part of Alaska which is claimed by this country.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

## No. 7.

*Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)*

(No. 30<sup>a</sup>.)

My Lord,

*Beverly (Massachusetts), September 21, 1888.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 207 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a note which I addressed to the Secretary of State, as well as copy of his reply thereto, on the subject of a Charter which it is said is about to be granted by the authorities in Alaska for certain privileges in territory claimed by Great Britain.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

*Sir L. West to Mr. Bayard.*

Sir,

*Beverly (Massachusetts), September 10, 1888.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Marquis of Salisbury has requested me to bring to your notice a rumour which has reached Her Majesty's Government that a Charter is about to be granted by the authorities of Alaska for certain privileges in a part of that country which is claimed by Great Britain.

Her Majesty's Government presume that this rumour is unfounded, as the territory in question is part of Her Majesty's dominions.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

*Mr. Bayard to Sir L. West.*

Sir,

*Department of State, Washington, September 15, 1888.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, in which, at the request of the Marquis of Salisbury, you bring to my notice a rumour which

\* Inclosures in No. 4.

† No. 5.

has reached Her Majesty's Government that a Charter is about to be granted by the authorities in Alaska for certain privileges in territory claimed by Great Britain. The rumour to which you refer is, as stated by you, certainly vague and indefinite, and has not come to the notice of this Department, which is wholly without information in regard to the granting of such a Charter as you mention, or to the locality of the territory to which it is said to apply.

A copy of your note will at once be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) T. F. BAYARD.

## No. 8.

*Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)*

(No. 317.)

My Lord,

*Beverly (Massachusetts), September 29, 1888.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 309 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a further note which I have received from the Secretary of State on the subject of the proposed grant of certain privileges to the Alaska Company.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

## Inclosure in No. 8.

*Mr. Bayard to Sir L. West.*

Sir,

*Department of State, Washington, September 25, 1888.*

IN further reply to your note of the 10th instant, relating to a rumour which had reached Her Britannic Majesty's Government to the effect that a Charter was about to be granted by the authorities in Alaska for certain privileges in territory claimed by Great Britain, I have the honour to inform you that the Department is in receipt of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, to whom your inquiry was referred, to the effect that the Department of the Interior has no information as to any proposed action of the character described.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) T. F. BAYARD.

## No. 9.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

*Foreign Office, October 16, 1888.*

[Transmits copies of Sir L. West's Nos. 309 and 317 of September 21 and 29, 1888: ante, Nos. 7 and 8.]

## No. 10.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 9.)*

Sir,

*Downing Street, November 8, 1888.*

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, forwarding a Minute of the Dominion Privy Council on the subject of the projected survey of the Portland Channel by the United States' Government as part of the boundary between Canada and the United States' portion of Alaska.

I am at the same time to transmit a copy of a letter, dated the 3rd October, on the subject of the southern boundary of Alaska from Major-General D. R. Cameron, who has given much attention to this question.

I am to observe that, although the line of demarcation may run along the Portland

Channel, and that, if so, there might be no ground for a protest against the action of the United States' Government, yet it might be intimated to them that Her Majesty's Government would not necessarily acquiesce in any boundary laid down by United States' authorities only, but that the Government of Canada have intimated their willingness to co-operate with the United States' Government now, as they have, indeed, always been willing to do, in having the true boundary between Alaska and Canada ascertained and delineated.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

*Lord Stanley of Preston to Lord Knutsford.*

My Lord,

*Government House, Ottawa, October 8, 1888.*

MY Ministers have had under consideration a despatch, dated the 7th August last, from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, inclosing a Minute of his Executive Council, together with a letter from the Honourable Mr. Justice Gray, having reference to the boundary between that Province and Alaska, and stating that a grant had been made during the present Session of the American Congress for an exploratory survey of the line up the Portland Channel, as if it were the recognized or admitted starting-point for the Alaska boundary-line, and for that purpose that an exploratory party had been sent there by the United States' Government, and were now engaged in surveying. I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council concurring in a Report of a Sub-Committee of Council recommending that, in view of the facts therein set forth, the Foreign Office be moved to remonstrate with the United States' Government against its being supposed that the action of such Government in making the survey in question may be considered as a taking of possession or of fixing of boundaries between the two countries, and, at the same time, assuring the Government of the United States that the Canadian Government are now, as they have always been, willing to co-operate with it in having the true boundary between Canada and Alaska ascertained and delineated.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) STANLEY OF PRESTON.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

*Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by his Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 20th September, 1888.*

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, dated the 7th August, 1888, from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, inclosing a Minute of the Executive Council, having reference to the boundary between that Province and Alaska, and stating that a grant had been made during the present Session of the American Congress for an exploratory survey of the line up the Portland Channel, as if it were the recognized or admitted starting point for the Alaska boundary-line, and for that purpose that an exploratory party had been sent there by the United States' Government, and were now engaged in surveying.

The Minister further alleged that, in the absence of any Convention or Agreement between the two countries, such action might be regarded as a quiet taking possession by the United States under a colour of right, which up to this year has never been acted upon, and that the Council are of opinion that it was advisable that the United States' Government should be informed that the survey above mentioned would not be regarded as having any effect in the ultimate determination of the boundary, and that a protest should be entered against the notion that such survey is a rightful, or any, taking possession of the country by the United States.

The Minister further referred to an accompanying letter from the Honourable Mr. Justice Gray, dated the 23rd July, 1888, to the Provincial Secretary of British Columbia, and, adopting his argument, requested that there might be an early settlement of a question involving such important national, Dominion, and provincial interests.

The Sub-Committee of the Privy Council, to whom the said despatch and inclosure were referred, states that, in their judgment, it is not probable that the exploratory

surveys now being made by the United States' authorities are intended by such authorities to be a taking possession by them of any territory of which the boundaries between the two countries have not been ascertained, but they recommend that, in view of the fact that the United States' Government may possibly take the view suggested in the Minute of Council of the British Columbia Government, the Foreign Office be moved to remonstrate with the United States' Government against its being supposed that the action of such Government in making the survey in question may be considered as a taking of possession or of fixing of boundaries between the two countries, at the same time assuring the Government of the United States that the Canadian Government are now, as they always have been, willing to co-operate with it in having the true boundary between Alaska and Canada ascertained and delineated.

The Committee, concurring in the above Report, advise that your Excellency be moved to transmit a copy of this Minute, together with the despatch and inclosure, from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Committee further advise that the Secretary of State be authorized to communicate a copy of this Minute to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia for the information of his Government.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN G. MCGEE, Clerk,  
Privy Council.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 10.

*Lieutenant-Governor Nelson to Secretary of State, Ottawa.*

Sir,

*Government House, Victoria, August 7, 1888.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Report of a Committee of my Executive Council approved by me on the 6th instant, having reference to a certain exploratory survey now being made of the line up the Portland Channel by the authorities of the United States, and for which a grant was made during the present Session of Congress, as if it were the recognized or admitted starting-point for the Alaska boundary-line, between that country and the Dominion of Canada.

Accompanying the Report is a letter on the subject from the Honourable Mr. Justice Gray, to which my Government invite the attention of the Dominion Government, they also refer to previous Minutes of Council, dated the 22nd July, 1884, the 8th September, 1884, the 9th November, 1885, and the 16th March, 1887, and most respectfully but most urgently reiterate the arguments therein put forth.

In addition to the arguments so strongly put forward in the letter of the Honourable Justice Gray, and referred to in the Minute of Council, I would draw the attention of the Dominion Government to the rich mineral discoveries being made along the Alaska coast the possibility and even probability of such discoveries being in the region referred to, and its probable occupation by citizens of the United States in the prosecution of such mining enterprises, thus enhancing the difficulty of reclaiming the territory as a further reason for the urgent attention of the Dominion Government to the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH NELSON.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 10.

*Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 6th August, 1888.*

IT has recently been brought to the notice of the Executive Council that a grant was made during the present Session of the American Congress for an exploratory survey of the line up the Portland Channel, as if it were the recognized or admitted starting-point for the Alaska boundary-line; and for that purpose that an exploratory party has been sent there by the United States' Government, and is now engaged in surveying.

In the absence of any Convention or Agreement between the two countries, this may be regarded by some as a quiet taking possession by the United States, under a colour of right, which up to this year has never been acted upon. The Committee of Council are of the opinion that it is advisable that the United States' Government should be informed that the survey above mentioned will not be regarded as having any effect in the ultimate



determination of the boundary, and that a protest be entered against the notion that such survey is a rightful, or any, taking possession of the country by the United States.

Accompanying this Minute is a valuable and important letter from the Honourable Mr. Justice Gray, to the perusal of which the attention of the Dominion Government is invited.

The Committee would refer to previous Minutes of Council on the subject of said boundary, dated respectively the 22nd July, 1884, 8th September, 1884, 9th November, 1885, 30th November, 1885, 7th February, 1887, and 16th March, 1887; and respectfully but most strongly reiterate the arguments and requests therein put forward for an early settlement of a question involving such important national, Dominion, and Provincial interests.

The Committee recommend that a copy of this Minute, if approved, be forwarded by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

Certified:  
(Signed) JNO. ROBSON, Clerk,  
Executive Council.

Victoria, August 4, 1888.

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Inclosure 5 in No. 10.

*Mr. Gray to Mr. Robson.*

Dear Sir,

*Victoria, British Columbia, July 23, 1888.*

SOME circumstances have of late occurred with reference to the question of the Alaska boundary which justify me in calling your attention, as a Member of the Government, to the subject.

In a Report which I had the honour to make to the Government several years ago, and which was embraced in the Minute of Council at that time adopted, I remarked (see Sessional Papers, 1885, p. 459) that, "in view of any ulterior extension of the Canadian Pacific Railway or its branches to an ocean terminus at Port Simpson, the settlement of this boundary is important, both in a strategical point of view, as affecting the sea approaches to the port, and in an economical point of view, as affecting the collection of revenue.

It is to the first, or strategical point, I wish to call your attention.

First: You will observe that a grant was made during the present Session of the American Congress for an exploratory survey of the line up the Portland Channel, as if it were the recognized or admitted starting-point for the boundary-line; and for that purpose an exploratory party has been sent there by the United States' Government.

In the absence of any Convention or Agreement between the two countries, this is a quiet taking possession, under a colour of right, which up to this year has never been acted upon.

Possession is a most important point in a disputed boundary matter, and will render a settlement or compromise with the United States which would necessitate a dislodgement or renouncement almost impossible.

Secondly: Apart from the immense loss of territory lying between Cape Chacon and that point nearly 70 or 80 miles to the eastward of Cape Chacon, strategically it will give a divided command of the approaches to the northern port or outlet of the Canadian railways to the Pacific Ocean.

You will have noticed by the proceedings in Congress, and the Report of General Duane, of the American Corps of Engineers, that the subject of the approaches by way of Fuca Straits to the mainland is under grave discussion; and there can be no question that, with the present long-range guns, the possession of Cape Flattery, Neah Bay, and the adjoining southern coast, the command of Fuca Straits is just as much American as British; and the commerce of either nation will be at the mercy of that Power which, for the time being, has the strongest force there. If the same end can be obtained at Portland Channel, then, both north and south, the commerce of Canada of the Pacific is at the mercy of a foreign Power.

If the true starting-point, Cape Chacon, is adhered to, then the approach to the mainland is by Discon Straits, 50 or 60 miles wide, and there will not be an armed foreign fortification lying within available distance to cut off the trade of the mainland, and at the same time of all the north-eastern portion of the island, as there certainly will be if the Portland Channel is admitted to be the starting-point.

I do not wish to enlarge upon this subject; to any one acquainted with the topography of the country it is too plain.

The whole of our difficulties with the United States as to the eastern fisheries arise from ambiguous expressions and quiet insidious assumptions. It is as well to avoid that state of affairs on the Pacific Coast. We have the knowledge, and it seems to me that the Canadian Government should be asked to protest at once against this action of the United States. A year hence it will be too late.

Excuse my calling this matter to your attention; but I have for so many years thought over it and the importance it will have in the future upon the welfare, not only of British Columbia but of the whole Dominion, that I do not think I ought to be silent.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) J. HAMILTON GRAY.

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Inclosure 6 in No. 10.

Colonel Cameron to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Royal Artillery Barracks, Sheerness, October 3, 1887.*  
I HAVE had the honour to receive your confidential letter of the 30th ultimo, intimating that the Secretary of State for the Colonies desires me to say if, in my opinion, the correspondence transmitted with your letter throws any fresh light on the Alaskan boundary question.

I do not think the correspondence throw any fresh light on the subject. The undated printed copy (? 1886) of the Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council of British Columbia is based on the assumption that Article III of the Convention of the 16th (28th) February, 1825, as ratified between Great Britain and Russia, does either not include the words "la passe dite Portland Channel," or if it does include them, that they were introduced inadvertently.

Neither of these views is correct.

I have personally verified the fact that in the ratified copy of the Convention the words do occur, and there cannot be the least doubt that the framers of the Convention inserted them advisedly.

The Russian contention that Portland Channel should be their southern continental boundary was a subject of protracted discussion, and finally led to the negotiations at St. Petersburg being interrupted.

In reporting to Mr. Canning how matters stood, the British Plenipotentiary, Sir Charles Bagot, informed him (the 17th (29th) March, 1824) that, but for their disagreement with regard to the southern Russian continental boundary, the Plenipotentiaries would not have had any real difficulty in arriving at a satisfactory agreement on all the questions referred to them.

Consequently, Mr. Canning, having reconsidered the whole subject, instructed Sir Charles Bagot, on the 12th July, 1824, that he might agree to "a line drawn from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island, from south to north through Portland Channel, till it strikes the mainland in latitude 56°, thence," &c.

Apparently with this concession to the Russians in view, Mr. Canning had, a short time previously (the 29th May, 1824), informed Count Lieven, the Russian Ambassador, that, on reopening negotiations, he should require "a somewhat more western degree of longitude as the boundary to the northward of Mount Elias;" and, when instructing Sir Stratford Canning, who succeeded Sir Charles Bagot as British Commissioner, Mr. Canning wrote: "I omitted in my last instructions to Sir Charles Bagot, though I had signified to Count Lieven that I intended to require a small extension of the line of demarcation from the point where the *lisière* on the coast terminates in latitude 59° to the northward. The extension required is from 139° to 140° west longitude, the latter being the parallel which falls more directly on Mount Elias."

This claim involved the agreement by Russia to forego more than 37,800 square miles which in the earlier part of the negotiations had been assigned to her.

In the records of the negotiations there are many references to Portland Channel. The Plenipotentiaries alluded to it in connection with its relation to the neighbouring geographical features. They referred to the latitude of its entrance, and to that of its inland extremity; and they disputed as to trade being carried on in its vicinity. Mr. Canning consulted the Hudson's Bay Company about it; and, in reply, the Governor of the Company (the 26th May, 1824), remarking on the draft of the Convention to be sent to Sir Charles Bagot on the renewal of the negotiations, made special allusion to the

circumstance that the Convention ceded "to Russia the exclusive right to the islands and coast from latitude 54° 40' northward to Mount Elias."

In my mind there is not a shadow of a doubt that, by the words "Portland Channel" the Plenipotentiaries intended to be understood the Portland Channel or Canal of Vancouver's Survey.

With reference to paragraph 6, p. 12, of the Report of the Committee of the Executive Council of British Columbia, in which it is stated that the Portland Channel line does not appear to have been "laid down, acquiesced in, or sanctioned by any competent authority before the transfer of Alaska to the United States," regard may be paid to Maps Nos. 6 and 7, accompanying Colonial Office Document, "North American Report on the British Alaskan Boundary."

Map No. 6 is taken from a Map compiled in 1831 in the Colonial Office.

Map No. 7 is taken from a Russian Government Map dated 1844.

Both show Portland Channel as forming part of the Alaskan boundary; and both were drawn anterior to the transfer of Alaska to the United States.

The letter of Mr. Justice Gray, covering the printed copy of the Report by the Committee of the Executive Council of British Columbia, does not appear to require remark.

I return herewith all the documents transmitted with your letter of the 30th ultimo, and I have, &c.

(Signed) D. R. CAMERON.

Inclosure 7 in No. 10.

*List of Inclosures.*

1. COPY of a Report (? 1885) of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council of British Columbia on the question of the boundary between Canada and Alaska (printed).

2. Map of the Province of British Columbia, compiled by direction of the Honourable W. Smith, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Victoria, British Columbia, 1884. Published by Dawson, Brothers, Montreal, and docketed by Mr. Justice Gray, "British Columbia. Correct delineation of north-west boundary."

3. Letter from Mr. Justice Gray to Dr. Cogswell, 47 York Terrace, Regent's Park, London, 23rd February, 1887.

4. Printed extract from Morgan's Parliamentary (Canadian) Companion, 1872, a sketch of Mr. Justice Gray's official life.

No. 11.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 6, 1888.*

THE Marquis of Salisbury has had under his consideration your letter of the 8th ultimo, and the papers which accompanied it, respecting an exploratory survey by United States' officers of the channel on the Alaska coast now known as the "Portland Channel."

As the present Government of the United States will not be in power for more than four months longer, Lord Salisbury does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by intimating to them that the Government of Canada are willing now, as they always have been, to co-operate with the United States' Government in having the true boundary-line between Alaska and Canada ascertained and delineated. His Lordship will, however, take advantage of any favourable opportunity that may occur to communicate to the United States' Minister in this country a Memorandum notifying that an explanatory survey of the so-called "Portland Channel" by American officers must not be taken as an admission that the true line of the limit of the Queen's dominions in those parts under the Treaty with Russia of 1825 runs up that channel. I am to transmit to you the accompanying draft of such proposed communication for the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

With regard to the contention of the Committee of the Columbian Executive Council (to which Major-General Cameron refers in his letter of the 3rd October last), that Her Majesty's Government are not necessarily bound to the "Portland Channel" line of

frontier, Lord Knutsford is, of course, aware that whenever the boundary question comes up for discussion with the United States one of the chief difficulties will be to obtain from them an admission that the Portland Channel mentioned in the Treaty of 1825 as the boundary-line is the waterway now in part called Pearce Channel, and not the channel now known as Portland Inlet.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

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Inclosure in No. 11.

*Draft Memorandum for communication to the United States' Minister in London.*

THE Government of the Dominion of Canada have recently brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government that the United States' Government, acting on a grant made by Congress for an exploratory survey of territory in the vicinity of British Columbia, have dispatched a surveying party to the channel now called Portland Inlet and Portland Channel.

Having regard to the fact that the frontier-line between the dominions of the Queen and the territory of Alaska, as laid down by the Treaty between Great Britain and Russia of 1825, has not been locally verified by the joint authority of Great Britain and Russia or of Great Britain and the United States, who acquired the Territory of Alaska from Russia, no survey made by officers acting on behalf of the United States' Government only can be accepted by Her Majesty's Government as an admission on their part that the true Treaty line lies up the channel now generally known as Observatory or Portland Inlet.

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No. 12.

*Mr. Phelps to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)*

My Lord, *Legation of the United States, London, December 6, 1888.*

REFERRING to the various correspondence which has heretofore taken place between the Governments of the United States and of Great Britain relative to the boundary-line between Alaska and British Columbia, and to the conversations I have had the honour to hold with your Lordship on that subject, I am now instructed by my Government to acquaint your Lordship that it proposes to send out an expedition for the survey of the locality of the line in question, and the ascertainment of the facts and data necessary to its delimitation in accordance with the spirit of the existing Treaties in regard to it between Great Britain and Russia, and between the United States and Russia.

I am further instructed respectfully to request of Her Majesty's Government that a surveying party may be sent out on its part to join that of the United States' Government and to participate with it in the examination and survey, in such a manner as to reach, if possible, a joint and concurrent conclusion in respect to the facts material to be determined. And I have the honour to inclose an extract from an official letter addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, by the Superintendent of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, showing the time and manner of the proposed survey, the composition of the party, and other particulars. These details are of course open to modification as may be found advisable by agreement between the two Governments, should the expedition be prosecuted jointly.

The previous correspondence between the two Governments on this subject has been printed by the United States' Government together with Maps to illustrate it, on the occasion of its being laid before Congress by the President. And in the hope that it may facilitate the reference your Lordship may desire to make, I venture to inclose a copy for your use.

It will be perceived from this correspondence, as will doubtless be in your Lordship's recollection, that an Agreement between the two Governments for a joint survey of this boundary was arrived at in April 1886. The execution of it has unfortunately been delayed hitherto by the failure to obtain the requisite appropriation from Congress, which, however, has now been made.

The reasons for the conclusions then reached are so fully set forth in the correspondence that I need not repeat them. They have increased in force with the time that has elapsed. The occupation of the region affected is rapidly taking place, and a disputed boundary may be at no distant day the occasion of serious trouble.

Preparations for so distant and extensive a work necessarily require time. And preliminary details need consideration.

I am therefore directed to express the hope of my Government that the matter may receive as early attention on the part of Her Majesty's Government as shall be found convenient.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. J. PHELPS.

Inclosure in No. 12.

*Extract from Letter from the Superintendent of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey to the Honourable the Secretary of the Treasury, dated September 26, 1858.*

PENDING the action of Congress upon the appropriations, there has, of course, been no formulation nor approval of plans or projects or such preliminary survey. For reasons, however, which are rendered sufficiently apparent by the contents of Senate Ex. Doc. No. 143, 49th Congress, 1st Session, it is obvious that, except as to a portion of the frontier-line, which is coincident with the meridian line of the 141st degree of west longitude, it would be impossible for a survey to definitely and authoritatively locate the boundary or frontier-line. From some informal discussion of the matter, it is understood that the Honourable Secretary of State will be likely to require that the preliminary survey shall, among other things, accurately establish in latitude and longitude, and permanently mark, such a number of accessible points at certain distances from the coast, or along certain mountain summits, as, together with such topographical reconnaissance as may be practicable, will afford the geographical information requisite to the proper negotiation of a Treaty establishing a boundary. To obviate, during such negotiation, all controversy as to the accuracy of such geographical information, it would seem desirable that both parties to the negotiation should be represented in the operations of the preliminary survey by competent surveyors and astronomers, whose concurrence in the determination of points in latitude and longitude, and in the delineation of topographical features would insure acceptance of their work by the negotiators, and avert one possible occasion of controversy and delay in the conclusion of a Boundary Treaty. The interval of six months or more which, under existing conditions, must elapse before it will be practicable to place our surveying parties in the field—in Alaska—would doubtless enable the Canadian Government to arrange and equip three or four surveying parties to meet our parties at some rendezvous on the Pacific Coast in April next, and join in a rapid prosecution of such preliminary survey. The desired result might be as well accomplished, though at disproportionately small expense for the Canadian Government, by the detailing of a single Canadian surveyor and astronomer to accompany each of our full parties, of which there will probably be four. Except as it may be necessarily interrupted by climatic or other causes, it is expected that the survey once begun, will be continuously prosecuted, and that the parties will not return from Alaska until its completion within three, and probably two, years from the actual commencement of work in the field.

No. 13.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Phelps.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 13, 1858.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 6th instant, stating that the United States' Government proposes to send out an expedition for the survey of the locality of the line of boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, and the ascertainment of the facts and data necessary to its delimitation in accordance with the spirit of the existing Treaties in regard to it between Great Britain and Russia, and between the United States and Russia; and requesting that a surveying party may be sent out on the part of Her Majesty's Government to participate in the survey.

The proposal made by the United States' Government will be considered by Her Majesty's Government without delay, in communication with the Government of the

Dominion of Canada, and I shall have the honour of acquainting you with the result as early as possible.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 14.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 13, 1888.*

SINCE the date of the letter from this Department of the 6th instant, respecting the boundary between British Columbia and the United States' Territory of Alaska, the Marquis of Salisbury has received from the American Minister at this Court a note dated the 6th instant, of which I inclose a copy,\* stating that the United States' Government propose to send out an expedition for the survey of the locality of the line in question, and the ascertainment of the facts and data necessary to its delimitation in accordance with the spirit of the existing Treaties in regard to it between Great Britain and Russia, and between the United States and Russia.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies will see that the United States' Government request that Her Majesty's Government will send a surveying party to join that of the United States' Government, and to participate in the examination and survey in such manner as to reach, if possible, a joint and concurrent conclusion in respect to the facts material to be determined.

Proposals as to the time and manner of the survey are made in a letter from the Superintendent of the United States' Coast and Geodetic Survey, of which a copy accompanies Mr. Phelps' communication. A copy of the paper laid before Congress therein referred to was forwarded to your Department in the letter from this Office of the 6th November, 1886.

Lord Salisbury has informed Mr. Phelps that the proposal contained in his note shall receive the consideration of Her Majesty's Government; and I am directed by his Lordship to request that you will move Lord Knutsford to favour him, at his early convenience, with such observations as he may have to offer on the suggestions of the United States' Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 15.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 20.)*

Sir, *Downing Street, December 18, 1888.*

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, transmitting copy of a note from the American Minister at this Court on the subject of the proposed survey of the Alaskan boundary.

In reply, I am to inclose, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch which Lord Knutsford has addressed to the Governor-General of Canada on the subject.

Pending the receipt of a reply to this despatch Lord Knutsford presumes that no action need be taken on your letter of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 15.

*Lord Knutsford to Lord Stanley of Preston.*

My Lord, *Downing Street, December 17, 1888.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for communication to your Ministers, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, inclosing copy of a note from the American Minister at this Court on the subject of the proposed survey of the Alaskan boundary.

\* No. 12.

I should be glad to be informed, with reference to the fourth paragraph of the Report of the Privy Council which accompanied your despatch referred to, what steps your Government desire to be taken in this matter.

I take this opportunity of transmitting, for the information of your Ministers, a copy of a letter from Major-General D. R. Cameron, C.M.G., on the subject of the southern portion of the boundary.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

No. 16.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 26, 1888.*

I HAVE laid before the Marquis of Salisbury your letter of the 18th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch which Lord Knutsford has addressed to the Governor-General of Canada on the subject of the proposals made by the United States' Government in regard to the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia.

Lord Salisbury considers that, pending a decision on those proposals, no action is necessary on the letter from this Department of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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